

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01604 092353Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
SAB-02 HA-05 IO-13 /083 W  
-----043705 101836Z /43

R 091938Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6026  
INFO PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 1604

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PN  
SUBJECT: LARGE RALLY IN PANAMA CITY

REF: PANAMA 1574

1. A CROWD ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 10 AND 12 THOUSAND GATHERED  
IN THE VICINITY OF THE JUSTO AROSEMENA LEGISLATIVE PALACE  
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.

2. ALTHOUGH SPEAKERS WERE INTERRUPTED AT VARIOUS POINTS BY  
ANTI-AMERICAN SLOGANS AND CROWD DEMANDS FOR A SPEEDY RATIFICATION  
OF THE CANAL TREATIES, THE OVERALL MOOD WAS FESTIVE AND  
CHEERFUL.

3. GENERAL TORRIJOS ADDRESSED THE CROWD (SETEL) AFTER IT HAD  
BEEN PRIMED BY TWO HOURS OF SPEECHMAKING (INCLUDING A SPEECH  
BY BOXING CHAMP ROBERTO DURAN) AND MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT.  
AFTER TORRIJOS' SPEECH, THE CROWD DISPERSED PEACEFULLY.  
OTHER THAN THE USUAL SCATTERING OF PLACARDS AND SLOGANS THAT  
PUNCTUATED THE RALLY, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATION  
OF ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT.

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SURPRISINGLY, NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF THE EVENT WAS  
RATHER LIGHT, ESPECIALLY GIVEN THE EXTENSIVE MEDIA BUILD-  
UP OF THE LAST FEW WEEKS. FRONT PAGE ARTICLES FOCUSED ALMOST  
EXCLUSIVELY ON TORRIJOS' SPEECH. INDEED, THERE WAS NO MENTION  
OF OTHER SPEAKERS.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE REPORTS THAT SOME EXTREME LEFTISTS AMONG THE RALLY'S ORGANIZERS HAD PRESSED FOR A TOKEN DEMONSTRATION AT THE U.S. EMBASSY, THIS DID NOT MATERIALIZE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS INDICATES THE DESIRE OF THE GOP TO AVOID ANY INCIDENTS THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE TREATY RATIFICATION. TORRIJOS' MODERATION IN DOWN-PLAYING THE CORRUPTION CHARGES AND HIS STATED OPTIMISM ABOUT RATIFICATION PROBABLY EXTINGUISHED ANY FLICKERING THOUGHTS OF ANTI-US DEMONSTRATIONS AFTER THE RALLY.

JORDEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PANAMA01604  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780108-0785  
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**Message ID:** de704cca-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PANAMA 1574  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3387261  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LARGE RALLY IN PANAMA CITY  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014